

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9 as follows:

The first embodiment (Figs. 1 – 3) of the present vessel for carrying out the present method for manufacturing ceramic parts comprises a bottom element 10, a cover element 12 and an intermediate element 14. [[the]] The elements 10, 12, 14 are preferably made from primary material. The bottom element 10 and the cover element 12 are cylindrical in shape and each have a cylindrical projection 20 or 22 located on the inner surface 16 or 18, respectively. The intermediate part element 14 is annular in shape and has a cylindrical opening 24 which, in the assembled condition (Fig. 2), defines the receiving portion 26. The diameter of the cylindrical opening 24 corresponds to the diameters of the cylindrical projections 20 and 22. In the assembled condition, this results in a cylindrical closed receiving portion 26.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 as follows:

The intermediate portion element 14 has an annular recess 28 for receiving secondary material. The recess 28 surrounds the receiving portion 26, where the recess does not necessarily have to be a circular ring. In the preferred embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3, the recess 28 is of circular ring shape and completely surrounds the receiving portion 26. A wall 30 is formed between the receiving portion 26 and the circularly annular recess 28, said the wall being made from primary material as is the entire intermediate part element 14. Thus, the secondary material is surrounded by primary material. Either a secondary material element 32 of secondary material is placed into the circularly annular recess 28, or the secondary material 32 is filled into the annular shape. The recess 28 is then closed with a closure element 34, preferably also made from primary material. The closure element 34 also is an annular element with an annular projection 36 extending into the recess 28 (Fig. 2).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 as follows:

The secondary material element 32[[,]] and, thus, the secondary material, preferably extends over a large part, especially more than two thirds, of the height of the receiving portion 26. It is particularly preferred to have the secondary material extend over the entire height of the receiving portion.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13 as follows:

The bottom element 10, as well as the cover element 12 are substantially identical. An intermediate part 40 also has a circular cross section. A substantially cylindrical receiving portion 26 is formed through the intermediate portion 26 part 40. However, the inner wall 42 (Fig. 6) of the receiving portion 26 is not smooth. Rather, cylindrical chambers 44 are provided starting from the inner wall 42. Individual rod-shaped secondary material elements 46 are inserted into the cylindrical chambers 44. In the embodiment illustrated, the secondary material elements 46 are encapsulated. The secondary material elements 46 are thus entirely enclosed by a shell layer 48.
[[the]] The shell layer 48 preferably consists of primary material.